

Patent claims

1. A method for operating an electronic device (100; 200), particularly a telephone terminal, with an input device (105; 205) and a display or output device (107; 207) which exhibits at least one supplementary or selection function which can be activated via the input device, each activation of a predetermined supplementary or selection function being detected, characterized in that
- the result of the detection is subjected to a predetermined evaluation for determining little used supplementary or selection functions,
 - a reference text to the supplementary or selection functions not used or little used is displayed or output in dependence on the result of the evaluation.
2. The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the step of evaluation includes the determination of the frequency of activation of the supplementary or selection function in a predetermined period or operating period.
3. The method as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that the evaluation includes a determination of the trend of the frequency of activation in a predetermined period or operating period.
4. The method as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the step of evaluation includes the determination of a period which has elapsed since the last activation of the supplementary or selection function.
5. The method as claimed in one of claims 2 to 4, characterized in that

the step of evaluation includes a comparison of the frequency of activation determined and/or of the trend determined and/or of the period determined, with a predetermined corresponding reference value.

5

6. An electronic device (100; 200), particularly a telephone terminal, with an input device (105; 205) and a display or output device (107; 207) which exhibits at least one supplementary or selection function which can be activated via the input device, in which a supplementary function detection device (103; 203) for detecting each activation of the or a particular supplementary or selection function and an evaluation device (109 to 135; 209 to 235), connected to the output of the supplementary function detection device and to a timer (103; 203), for determining a quantity characterizing the number of activations in a predetermined period and for outputting a corresponding output signal are provided, characterized by

- a user information memory (141; 241) for storing at least one advisory text for the or each supplementary or selection function,
- 20 the advisory text relating to supplementary or selection functions which are not used or little used,
- a memory control device (139; 239) for addressing the user information memory for outputting the or an advisory text to the or each supplementary or selection function not used or only
- 25 little used, in dependence on the output signal of the evaluation device via the display device.

7. The device as claimed in claim 6, characterized in that the supplementary function detection device exhibits a counter (109, 111; 209) for detecting the number of activations of the or each supplementary or selection function and an arithmetic calculating unit (115, 117; 215), following the counter and connected to

20

THE
NEW
YORK
PUBLIC
LIBRARY

AMENDED SHEET

determining the frequency of activation of the supplementary or selection function in a predetermined period.

8. The device as claimed in claim 6 or 7, characterized in that
5 the evaluation device exhibits a memory (113; 213) for registering
the last activation time of the supplementary or selection
function in each case and a subtraction stage (133; 233),
connected to this memory and to the timer (103; 203), for
determining the period which has elapsed since the last
10 activation.

9. The device as claimed in one of claims 6 to 8, characterized
in that the evaluation device exhibits a comparator unit (119,
123, 129, 135; 219, 235), which is connected at its input to a
15 reference value memory (127, 121, 131, 133; 227, 237), for
comparing the quantity relating the number of activations to a
predetermined period and for outputting a corresponding control
signal to the memory control device (139; 239).